

TEACCH Autism Program Basics of Structured TEACCHing Training

Problem Solving in the Community – BRIAN

Brian is a 3 year-old boy with an autism spectrum disorder. He displays limited language skills, with stronger receptive than expressive language. The use of objects as a supplement has been helpful to improve both his understanding of language and his ability to make requests and communicate his needs.

Brian loves the outdoors and any type of physical activity. When playing outside, he mostly enjoys pacing back and forth and wandering the perimeter of the area. His social initiations and interactions are generally limited. He struggles somewhat with new places and understanding the expectations for an outing if not given direct instruction.

You are planning to take Brian to a local park. The park has a separate area for young children which includes a variety of play equipment, such as swings of different sizes, slides, individual riding structures (e.g., teeter totter, bouncing horse and car), and a large climbing gym with “centers” (e.g., mirrors, spinning materials, driving wheel). Nearby is a picnic area with low tables for young children and a water fountain. There are many trees and bushes as well as surrounding trails and walkways to access other park sites, including the closest parking lot.

Please discuss with your group a plan for helping Brian to be successful at the park. Please design a system that will help him to know where he is going and what he will be doing while at the park; please also address how to keep him safe, including a strategy to deal with his tendency to put things in his mouth.